



**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE COMMON COUNCIL
MIDDLETOWN CONNECTICUT
SEPTEMBER 6, 2016**

The Special meeting Questions to Directors of the Common Council of the City of Middletown was held in the Council Chamber of the Municipal Building on Tuesday, September 6, 2016 at 6 p.m.

Present:

Councilman Eugene Nocera, Councilman Thomas J. Serra, Councilman Gerald E. Daley, Councilman Robert P. Santangelo, Councilman Carl R. Chisem, Councilman Robert Blanchard, Councilman Philip Pessina, Councilwoman Deborah A. Kleckowski, Councilwoman Linda Salafia

Absent:

Mayor Daniel T. Drew, Council Members Mary Bartolotta, Grady L. Faulkner, Jr., Sebastian Giuliano; and Corporation Counsel Daniel B. Ryan

Also Present

Public Works Director William Russo, Finance Director Carl Erlacher, Acting Director of IT Eldon Bailey, Water and Sewer Director Guy Russo, Parking Director Geen Thazhampallath, City Attorney Brig Smith, Captain John Lozefski MPD, Acting Parks and Recreation Acting Director Deb Stanley, Deputy Tax Assessor Roger Palmer, Fire Chief Robert Kronenberger, Director of Communications Wayne Bartolotta, , Planning, Conservation and Development Director Michiel Wackers, Director of Human Relations Faith Jackson, Arts Coordinator Stephan Allison, City and Town Clerk Linda Bettencourt, Emergency Management Director George Dunn, Youth Services Coordinator Justin Carbonella, and four members of the public.

1. Mayor calls meeting to order.

The Acting Chair asks Councilman Serra to lead the public in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Council Clerk reads the Call of the Meeting and Deputy Mayor declares the call a legal call and the meeting a legal meeting.

2. Questions to Directors Opens

The Acting Chair opens the Questions to Directors workshop at 6:02 p.m.

Councilman Serra asks Geen Thazhampallath, Chair of the Russell Library Board of Trustees to explain 9B and the 12P the items you have on the agenda. Mr. Thazhampallath responds they are going through reorganization; they have 3 vacant positions and it is looking at an intra-line transfer in the salary line item. It is a new structure and it is in line with Library structure that is occurring throughout the country. It is to help build the infrastructure of philanthropy.

Noted for the Record

Councilman Daley takes his seat at 6:03 p.m.

Mr. Thazhampallath continues with Matt instead of doing administrative work day to day, it will free him up to do philanthropic aspects of the job. They are looking to build an infrastructure to reduce the burden on the City. Councilman Serra comments it is cautious optimistic results. Mr. Thazhampallath replies they hope to reduce the dependency on the City.

Councilman Serra asks for the Finance Director. The director, Carl Erlacher comes forward to respond. Councilman Serra states relative to the pension that they will look at tonight, 12K, the adjustments. Can you make the council and public aware of the cost of living adjustments for two years and why we can do this. Mr. Erlacher states the pension fund is one of the fully funded pension plans in Connecticut. The two percent was voted on by the pension board and was brought before Finance and Government and General Counsel Commission. Most of the pensioners have not had a raise in years and they follow contracts and insurance rates have gone up. Since our fund is able to do this and they have actuarial assumptions, we have met our expected rate of return and that is covered so they voted to give the increase.

Noted for the Record

Councilman Blanchard takes his seat at 6:07 p.m.

Councilman Serra asks about investments. Mr. Erlacher states they expect 2.5% to go out as a cost of living increase every year and it has not in the last few years.

3. Questions to Directors Closes.

The Acting Chair closes the workshop of questions to directors.

4. Meeting adjourned.

Councilman Thomas J. Serra moves adjourning the meeting. Councilman Eugene Nocera seconds the motion. The chair calls for the vote. It is 9 aye votes by Councilman Eugene Nocera, Councilman Thomas J. Serra, Councilman Gerald E. Daley, Councilman Robert P. Santangelo, Councilman Carl R. Chisem, Councilman Robert Blanchard, Councilman Philip Pessina, Councilwoman Deborah A. Kleckowski, Councilwoman Linda Salafia; 0 nay votes and 3 absent by Councilwoman Mary A. Bartolotta, Councilman Grady L. Faulkner, Jr., Councilman Sebastian N. Giuliano. The Chair states the matter carried with 9 affirmative votes, 0 in opposition and 3 absent.

The Acting Chair declares the meeting adjourned at 6:08 p.m.

ATTEST:

MARIE O. NORWOOD
COMMON COUNCIL CLERK